

**ADVISORY COUNCIL ON  
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES  
Meeting Minutes  
October 12, 2001  
Alaska Building, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Seattle, WA 98104**

**ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Present:** Marc Avni, Martha Becker, Pat Carroll, Gabe Cohen, Thelma Coney, Cleo Corcoran, Timmie Faghin, Lee Gaylor, Susanne Gehring, Juanita Grant, Randy Hayhurst, Murray Meld, , Cecil Pollard, Mae Shields, Karen Sluiter, Suzanne Wiley, Fred Yee

**Absent:** Peter Steinbrueck, Leo Ward,

**Excused:** Miriam Horrigan, Will Parry, Cherie Sigrist, Helen Spencer, Greg Stack

**STAFF:** Rosemary Cunningham, Peggy O'Brien-Murphy, Maria Ramirez, Allison Ruff, Linda Wells, Karen Winston, Linda Woodall

**GUESTS:** Judy Moulinet

**Minutes**

**Murray Meld**, Chair, convened the meeting at 12:00 p.m. The minutes of the August 10, 2001 were approved.

**Committee Reports**

**Outreach & Advocacy** **Gabe Cohen** reported that Outreach and Advocacy Committee discussed a draft letter to Senators Cantwell and Murray expressing concern about additional tax cuts amid the aftermath caused by terrorists attacks on September 11<sup>th</sup> . National security issues and the impending war on terrorism have become urgent and immediate priorities - overshadowing issues of privatizing social security, prescription drugs and other areas of Advisory Council interest. The O&A committee is gravely concerned about resulting impacts this will have on programs for seniors and people with disabilities. Because so much has changed since the bill was passed by Congress, the letter will urge US Senators Cantwell and Murray to take a second look at the tax relief bill and call for reconsideration of its relevance in light of the sudden and dramatic changes in the nation's economy and environment.

The committee discussed the role and relevance of Outreach and Advocacy Committee and reviewed a survey on topics for future committee consideration. The committee also agreed on the need to develop a framework for both focus and selection of issues and priorities. This is an on-going discussion which will continue into next year. The committee is also looking forward to the Annual Meeting in November and hearing **N4A Board President Barry Donenfeld** speak about the background and role of N4A – especially during this time of national crisis. Information gleaned from the Annual Meeting may assist in shaping a framework for O&A focus.

**Legislative Meetings.** Meetings with legislators have been very positive and helpful in getting our name out and priorities heard. It's been an especially a good opportunity to educate legislators on caseload problems, worker wages and W4A issues. Thus far we have met with Representatives Mary Ann Mitchell, Ruth Kagi, Helen Sommers, Fred Jarrett, Laura Ruderman and Senators, Dow Constantine and Jim Horn. Packets of information on who we are and what we do have been left with the legislators.

The committee urged AC members to carefully review Initiatives I-775 and I-747 before the November elections. Pro and con materials are available on all the initiatives.

**Health Care Task Force:** *Karen Sluiter* introduced and congratulated *Fred Yee* and *Martha Becker* who are the new co-chairs of Health Care Task Force.

The Task Force has been focusing on some of the same questions being considered by the O&A. What should the focus be? Have we gotten too broad? Are we overlapping? How do we involve more people? The task force has a mailing list of 75+ names, but few actually attend. An information gathering survey has been prepared but put on hold for now. As with O&A, these questions will be an on-going discussion.

Karen reported that members of the Outreach & Advocacy and Planning & Allocations committees visited the Farmers Market Produce Nutrition Program to see first hand how some of our nutrition dollars are used. After a short discussion on how the program works, everyone put on aprons and helped prepare 50 baskets of delicious looking fruits and vegetables - the beauty and quality of the produce was very impressive. About 10-12 items from local farmers go into each basket, which are then home delivered by the countywide Meals on Wheels Program. A small staff of two and some volunteers keep the program functioning. All paperwork is handled manually. Hopefully, computers will be available in the near future. The staff deeply appreciated the interest and assistance of the AC.

**Medicaid Waiver Reform:** DSHS is in the process of submitting a Medicaid waiver so that the Medicaid budget can be reduced. The waiver is so broadly written that it's difficult to know exactly what the proposal will do. It could impact 732 clients from our case management program. *Fred Yee* said there is a potential impact on people who are currently eligible to receive a waiver of premiums and deductibles of the Medicare Qualified Benefit Beneficiary Program. Pam has already sent a letter to Dennis Braddock, Secretary of DSHS, outlining concerns about this waiver. Another waiver (of the Federal Medicaid Requirements) relates to the COPES program. It would allow the state to expand COPES medically needy eligibility. This too has run into some problems. The Task Force will continue to follow the issue.

**Housing Task Force:** Vice Chair *Judy Moulinet* reported on a letter Housing Task Force Chair, Greg Stack sent to SHA Executive Director Harry Thomas regarding potential loss of 290 low income units from the re-development of Rainier Vista. Jeffrey Saeger, Project Manager for Rainier Vista HOPE VI Grant, responded to Greg's letter and stated that all the low-income units will be replaced. Some of the low-income units would be replaced at sites other than Rainier Vista, either by acquisition of existing properties or construction of new housing elsewhere in Seattle.

Gabe handed out a Seattle Time article (Oct 4, 2001) reporting allegations of financial mismanagement and discriminating practices in SHA's low-income housing programs. He requested the Housing Task Force keep a sharp eye on SHA progress (or lack of progress). Randy Hayhurst reiterated concerns expressed by Gabe and also urged the Task Force to stay on top of these issues. Randy says dissatisfaction with SHA is severe in some areas and needs to be closely monitored. Murray suggested we might avail ourselves of a different perspective on SHA priorities by inviting Harry Thomas or someone from SHA top management to a future Advisory Council meeting.

**Universal Design** It's hoped that most of the Task Force work on Universal Design will be completed by the first of the year. The Task Force will have a Power Point presentation prepared by November and will share the presentation with the AC in January. The intent is to develop a presentation that is interesting and offers a universal appeal to a wide variety of people, including senior groups and professional organizations. Hopefully other organizations will take up and continue the Task Force efforts.

**Planning & Allocation:** *Karen Winston* reported that the committee did not meet because the public hearings for the Area Plan Up-Date were held in September.

**Nominating Committee:** The slate of officers for the year 2002 was presented at the August meeting and **Fred Yee** re-capped the report for the Advisory Council. The slate includes: **Karen Sluiter**: Chair, **Lee Gaylor**: Vice Chair, **Suzanne Wiley**: Secretary/Treasurer, and **Will Parry**: Officer at-Large. Fred read the duties of each officer as described in the by-laws, then opened the proposed slate to nominations from the floor, as required in the by-laws. As no additions were made, the slate of officers was accepted as presented by the committee.

**Sponsors Report:** Murray introduced **Maria Ramirez** to the AC. She is replacing **Suzanne Simmons** as liaison for the county. Maria said her immediate major goal is to fill Advisory Council vacant slots. Two nominations are presently working their way through the County Council. January will bring another vacancy. Maria invited the AC to give her suggestions for potential new members

Murray requested a report at some future meeting, on the impacts of King County funding shortfalls. He also asked Maria to bring the AC information on the human services situation in some of the larger cities in the county, as well as suggestions on how the AC might develop a dialogue on pertinent issues with other major cities in the county. It was suggested that the AC invite Human Service Managers from other municipalities to a future meeting for an exchange of ideas and information. Maria has been working on a study of unincorporated areas, which includes housing demographics and distribution of populations in the county. She'll bring an overview to the next meeting.

**Linda Woodall** noted that South King County has a regular meeting forum and suggested that some AC members might like to attend one of the meetings. She also suggested the AC could meet with United Way staff who work in different parts of the county.

United Way has selected **David Okamoto** (former Director of the Atlantic Street Center) as the new Vice President of Community Services. They had 115 applications. The AC will be receiving an invitation to a welcoming reception for David.

A United Way document, *Health and Human Services Community Assessment*, is now available to Advisory Council members who wish to have a copy. This document provides a broad range of data on the people and communities in King County with a specific focus on health and human services needs. The document will be on-line in the near future.

United Way will have an Advisory Council vacancy in January. (Murray noted that all new terms for the Council will begin in January 2002).

**Director's Report:** **Rosemary Cunningham** gave the report for Pam who is in California.

**Good news** - our AAA will receive a small increase in funds from the Older Americans Act (approximately \$40,000) for 2002. The Senior Market Basket Program received \$17,000 more than requested. This money allows a wider disbursement of apples and potatoes to senior centers and nutrition sites. Unfortunately, there is no hope for the \$4 million increase for case management that was left out the budget last session. Before September 11 it was in the DSHS proposed budget to the Governor. It will not be re-instated.

DSHS, Aging and Adult Services has been asked to give a proposal for a 10% cut and a 15% cut for long term care. They're looking at increasing the bar for eligibility for COPES, CHORE, and Medicaid, and making reductions in Respite, and the Senior Citizens Services Act (which finances much of ADS discretionary funding).

**Allison Ruff** did a great job on preparing the Cash and Counseling Grant, which just missed being funded. We requested \$600,000 over 3 years and were next in line as the money ran out. We intend to submit the proposal to other fund sources.

#### **Announcements**

- Murray has been invited to testify before the **Social Security Advisory Board**. The Board is meeting in 5 major cities to take testimony on public understanding, complaints and/or needs on SSI and SDI issues. The Seattle meeting will take place on October 18<sup>th</sup> at the Jackson Federal Building.
- **The Advisory Council Annual Meeting** will be held November 9<sup>th</sup> at the Central Area Senior Center from Noon – 2:00 p.m. Barry Donenfeld, President of N4A will be keynote speaker. **Election of Officers** will take place at this meeting.
- Meeting with Seattle City **Councilmember Peter Steinbrueck** and a panel of experts on “**Creating a Balanced and Responsive Community**” - Identifying needs and resources for people with disabilities. November 7<sup>th</sup>, City Council Chambers, Noon- 1:00 pm.
- **Senior Citizens Lobby Conference**, “Critical Issues for an Aging Society” November 16, SeaTac DoubleTree Hotel, 9:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.
- **Washington Health Legislative Conference** will be held Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at the SeaTac DoubleTree Hotel.

(ADS will cover expenses for Advisory Councilmembers who wish to attend any of the above. Please contact Peggy ASAP. Carpooling will be available for those who request it.)

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 2:00 PM

**DON'T FORGET THE...**

**\*\*\*ANNUAL MEETING: November 9, 2001, Noon – 2:00 PM**  
**Central Area Senior Center**  
**500 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue**  
**Seattle, WA 98144**  
**206/762-4926**

Suzanne Wiley, Secretary-Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_